**A** **HOUSE RESOLUTION**

TO DECLARE SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 22, 2020, AS “TRIO DAY” IN THE PALMETTO STATE AND TO COMMEND SOUTH CAROLINA TRIO AND ITS PARTICIPANTS FOR THEIR OUTSTANDING ACHIEVEMENTS AND PROGRESS IN ASSISTING FIRST‑GENERATION STUDENTS.

Whereas, TRIO is the first set of federal programs to address the serious social, economic, and cultural barriers to higher education in the United States. Nationally, nearly one million participants in approximately three thousand programs at host institutions, both urban and rural, make higher education a reality for students who are often the first members of their families to enroll in, and graduate from, college; and

Whereas, on February 24, 1986, concurrent resolution H. Con. Res. 278 declared the sense of Congress that February 28, 1986, should be designated “National TRIO Day” and that the achievements of the TRIO programs should be recognized; and

Whereas, TRIO programs, to include the Educational Opportunity Center, Educational Talent Search, Ronald E. McNair Post‑Baccalaureate Achievement Program, Student Support Services, and Upward Bound (Classic, Math and Science, Veterans), emerged from an understanding that low‑income first‑generation students need more than financial aid to overcome the systematic obstacles in the way of their acquiring a college degree; and

Whereas, National TRIO Day is meant to focus the nation’s attention on the needs of disadvantaged young people and adults aspiring to improve their lives if they are to become contributing citizens of this great country. Further, TRIO Day seeks to spotlight the talent that will be wasted if the necessary investments are not made in the lives of these individuals; and

Whereas, by recognizing the untapped talent and potential of low‑income first‑generation Americans with diverse racial and economic backgrounds, TRIO programs open the doors to educational access and opportunity for all every day; and

Whereas, in the State of South Carolina, South Carolina TRIO personnel serve nearly fifteen thousand participants in fifty‑seven programs, and they have served communities in the State for over fifty years; and

Whereas, on the thirty‑fourth anniversary of National TRIO Day, let us proclaim our commitment to educational equity, access, and opportunity for all, regardless of racial or economic background. Now, therefore,

Be it resolved by the House of Representatives:

That the members of the South Carolina House of Representatives, by this resolution, declare Saturday, February 22, 2020, as “Trio Day” in the Palmetto State and commend South Carolina Trio and its participants for their outstanding achievements and progress in assisting first‑generation students.

Be it further resolved that a copy of this resolution be presented to Mr. James Prince, president of South Carolina Trio and the South Carolina Trio Board.

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